

Champaign law firm that now says it knew nothing about his views.

To receive a law license, Hale and other prospective lawyers are required to appeal before a judge or attorney working on behalf of the Illinois Supreme Court's committee on character and fitness who look for problems including dishonesty, criminal activity, academic misconduct or financial irresponsibility.

All but 25 of more than 3,000 applicants last year were approved at that initial stage.

Hale was not, and then a three-member inquiry panel voted 2-1 in December not to give him a license.

"The balance of values that we strike leaves Matthew Hale free, as the First Amendment allows, to incite as much racial hatred as he desires and to attempt to carry out his life's mission of depriving those he dislikes of their legal rights," panel members wrote.

"But in our view he cannot do this as an officer of the court."

Illinois officials say the last case similar to Hale's was in the early 1950s, when a law student refused to take an anti-Communist loyalty oath. The U.S. Supreme Court last considered a similar case in 1971, when two applicants for law licenses in other states would not reveal their political beliefs. The court ruled in their favor.

The Anti-Defamation League believes Hale shouldn't be denied a law license because of the "slippery slope" it creates, said Andrew Shoenthal, assistant director in the group's Chicago office.

For instance, Shoenthal asked, could a prospective lawyer who opposes abortion or supports school prayer be denied a license if a majority in his community held an opposite view?

The Illinois State Bar Association has yet to take a position on Hale's case, but spokesman Dave Anderson said the case "is a hot topic (among lawyers) right now, with spirited debate on both sides."

Hale, meanwhile, was fired in November by the law firm because he couldn't obtain a license. He lives with his parents in East Peoria, operating out of an office in their home.

When he's not talking about his white supremacist beliefs, Hale seems intelligent, polite, and articulate.

"I can't name a Hollywood movie that made white supremacists look good," he said. "We're always portrayed as hate mongers, villains, uneducated, missing all our teeth, having a shotgun in the backseat and chewing tobacco."

Hale is optimistic he'll get his license and plans to open a solo practice because no law firm is likely to hire him. His plans include challenging affirmative action laws and the lingering law for which he was cited.

"For me, the true test of character is whether a person says what they think, which is what I have always done," Hale said. "I believe I show more character than most attorneys in that I actually practice what I preach."

STUDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO SENDING THREATENING E-MAILS

LOS ANGELES (AP).—A college student has pleaded guilty to federal civil rights charges that he e-mailed hate messages to dozens of Hispanics around the country.

Kingman Quon, 22, of Corona pleaded guilty Monday in federal court to seven misdemeanor counts of interfering with federally protected activities.

Specifically, he was accused of threatening to use force against his victims with the intent to intimidate or interfere with them because of their national origin or ethnic background.

It was only the second federal civil rights prosecution involving e-mail threats.

Quon could face up to seven years in prison and nearly \$700,000 in fines when he is sentenced on April 26, although he is expected to receive a 2-year sentence under a plea bargain.

Quon, who was charged in January, remains free on bail pending sentencing.

Quon, a Chinese-American, said outside court that he "snapped" and sent the messages in March because he couldn't stand the pressures of being "a high-achieving college student."

He is a marketing major at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Quon sent the same racially derogatory e-mail to 42 professors at California State University, Los Angeles and 25 students at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"The only reason you people are in state colleges is because of affirmative action," the message read.

One copy went to Assemblywoman Gloria Romero, D-Alhambra, a former Cal State psychology professor.

Quon also sent the message to employees of Indiana University, Xerox Corp., the Texas Hispanic Journal, the Internal Revenue Service and NASA's Ames Research Center.

Outside of court Monday, Quon apologized for the messages and asked the victims to forgive him.

The only other federal hate e-mail prosecution involved Richard Machado, 21, a naturalized citizen from El Salvador who flunked out of the University of California, Irvine. He was convicted last year of sending messages to 59 Asian students on campus, allegedly out of anger because he felt their good grades were raising the standard for others.

He was sentenced to a year in jail and was ordered to undergo racial tolerance counseling.

SPEEDY RULING SOUGHT FOR AYERS ISSUE AFFECTING USM-GULF COAST

JACKSON, MISS. (AP).—The State College Board will meet Thursday with its lawyers to discuss questions raised in a complaint over whether university expansion on the Gulf Coast will impact the historically black colleges.

Last week, plaintiffs in a long-running college desegregation lawsuit filed papers asking U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. of Oxford to hold up the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast expansion.

Alvin Chambliss Jr., a law professor at Texas Southern University and lead attorney for plaintiffs in the lawsuit, questioned the admissions policies at USM/Gulf Coast operations.

Chambliss also said he feared the USM upgrades could interfere with state funding needed for court-approved remedies.

The desegregation case began in January 1975 when the late Jake Ayers Sr. of Glen Allan sued, accusing Mississippi of neglecting the state's three historically black universities—Jackson State, Alcorn and Mississippi Valley State. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1992 that Mississippi operated a segregated college system.

USM wants \$2 million for Gulf Coast expansions. That includes funds for USM-Long Beach and creation of a multi-university higher education center. The Legislature has not yet acted on the money.

"We all hope it doesn't hold up things," said College Board member Nan Baker of Winona. "A speedy ruling (from the judge) would be best for everybody concerned."

The College Board endorsed the USM/Gulf Coast expansion by a 7-5 vote last month. Critics say Mississippi can't afford what may become a ninth university.

Reports from the College Board did not spell out the racial makeup of USM/Gulf Coast programs, Chambliss said.

The USM plan would add 150 freshmen next fall to the Gulf Park campus at Long Beach and 750 freshmen and sophomores over a five-year period. The board plan also proposes a USM-led higher education center on the Gulf Coast. It would allow five universities including Jackson State and Alcorn State, and a community college, to teach classes.

"Persons from every sector of the Gulf Coast support what we are doing," said USM President Horace Fleming Jr. "We have support from leaders in the black community. We think it would help everybody."

Sen. David Jordan, D-Greenwood, is urging the Legislature to more than triple the \$4.7 million the College Board is seeking for Ayers funding for the three historically black universities.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION ON MISSING ISRAELI SOLDIERS— H.R. 1175 DIRECTS THE U.S. GOV- ERNMENT TO PRESS THIS MAT- TER WITH MID-EAST GOVERN- MENTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, almost 17 years ago, three Israeli soldiers were captured in northeastern Lebanon following a tank battle with Syrian and Palestinian forces near the town of Sultan Yaqub. One of the men was Sgt. Zachary Baumel, an American citizen living in Israel. His parents also live in Israel and also are American citizens. The other two Israeli soldiers captured at Sultan Yaqub are Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

According to press and intelligence reports, a pro-Syrian faction of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) had custody of these three men initially, but the faction later split from the PLO and took the three prisoners with them. Just hours after the soldiers were captured, western journalists in Damascus and Syrian radio reported that three Israeli soldiers were paraded through the streets of Damascus in a victory parade.

Over 10 years later, in 1993, the families of the MIAs hoped their ordeal might be over when Palestinian Authority Chairman, Yasser Arafat, returned half of Baumel's army dogtag to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and promised to provide additional information regarding the MIAs of Sultan Yaqub. Over 5 years have passed since that time, and no additional information has been forthcoming from Chairman Arafat.

According to the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv (April 24, 1994), French President Jacques Chirac raised the issue of the three prisoners during a visit to Lebanon. He reported on his conversations in Beirut: "I spoke to my friend, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, and he told me in no uncertain terms that only [Syrian President Hafez al] Assad knows what happened to the [Israeli] POWs." Syrian officials, however, have repeatedly denied knowledge of the missing men.

Syrian practice in the past has been to deny publicly holding such individuals. For example, the Syrians repeatedly denied knowledge of a group of Palestinians whom they held for over

a decade; the Palestinian prisoners only became known when the Syrian government released them in 1995. On the basis of this experience with Syria, it is quite possible that these Israeli MIAs are still alive and under Syrian control.

Mr. Speaker, I have chosen to introduce this legislation today because this day holds great significance for the Jewish people. Today is the first day of the month of Nissan on the Jewish calendar. Nissan is a very important month because Jews from around the world celebrate Passover and join with their families in the observance of the holiday of freedom in this month.

It is in the spirit of this month that I ask my colleagues in the Congress to join me in helping Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz return to their homes. Sitting in the gallery today is Mrs. Miriam Baumel, Zachary Baumel's mother, whose tireless efforts on behalf of H.R. 1175 are a testament of her deep love for her son and her strong support for this legislation. Miriam and husband, Yona, have visited communities across the country and have met with numerous Members of Congress and congressional staff in their tireless effort to rally support for their son and to end this family tragedy.

I have confidence in this house's ability to do what is right. Mr. Speaker. The Baumel, Feldman, and Katz families should not have to spend one more night worrying about the fate of Zachary, Tzvi, and Yehuda.

H.R. 1175 directs the Department of State to raise the fate of these Israeli soldiers with the Palestinian Authority and leaders of the governments of Syria, Lebanon, and other countries in the Middle East in an effort to locate and secure the return of these soldiers. This legislation also specifies that U.S. aid to these governments "should take into consideration the willingness of these governments and authorities to assist in locating and securing the return of these soldiers." The State Department is directed to report to the Congress concerning these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation is introduced in the hope that we can find answers to the questions that have haunted the Baumel, Katz, and Feldman families for almost 17 years. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and help to put an end to this tragedy.

H.R. 1175

To locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, an American Citizen, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that

A. Zachary Baumel, an American citizen serving in the Israeli military forces, has been missing in action since June 1982 when he was captured by forces affiliated with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) following a tank battle with Syrian forces at Sultan Ya'akub in Lebanon;

B. Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman, Israeli citizens serving in the Israeli military forces, have been missing in action since June 1982 when they were also captured by these same forces in a tank battle with Syrian forces at Sultan Ya'akub in Lebanon;

C. These three soldiers were last known to be in the hands of a Palestinian faction splintered from the PLO and operating in Syrian-controlled territory, thus making

this a matter within the responsibility of the government of Syria;

D. Diplomatic efforts to secure their release have been unsuccessful, although PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat delivered one half of Zachary Baumel's dog tag to Israeli government authorities; and

E. In the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the Palestinian Authority and the government of Israel of May 4, 1994, Palestinian officials agreed to cooperate with Israel in locating and working for the return of Israeli soldiers missing in action.

SEC. 2. ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

A. The Department of State shall raise the matter of Zachary Baumel, Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman on an urgent basis with appropriate government officials of Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and with other governments in the region and other governments elsewhere which in the Department's view may be helpful in locating and securing the return of these soldiers.

B. Decisions with regard to United States economic and other forms of assistance to Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and other governments in the region and United States policy towards these governments and authorities should take into consideration the willingness of these governments and authorities to assist in locating and securing the return of these soldiers.

SEC. 3. REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

A. Ninety days after the enactment of this legislation, the Department of State shall deliver a report in writing to the Congress detailing its consultations with governments pursuant to section 2(A) of this act and United States policies affected pursuant to section 2(B) of this act. This report shall be a public document. The report may include a classified annex.

B. After the initial report to the Congress, the Department of State shall report in writing within 15 days whenever any additional information from any source relating to these individuals arises. Such report shall be a public document. The report may include a classified annex.

C. The reports to the Congress identified in paragraph (A) and (B) above shall be made to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

A SALUTE TO WILLIAM JOHNSON

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to share with my colleagues my esteem and regard for William Johnson, Business Manager of Laborers Union Local 113 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On March 20, his family, friends, union brothers and sisters, and admirers will gather to celebrate Bill Johnson's over 40 years of service to Milwaukee workers and to wish him well as his life begins a new chapter.

Bill returned to his native Alabama in 1955, an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Army. He stayed only a couple of weeks before he agreed to join his brother in Milwaukee.

When he arrived in Milwaukee, Bill Johnson found work, but he did not immediately find union representation. During the early days of America's struggle for civil rights, many of the

union locals in town were not admitting African Americans. When he joined the Laborers' paving local that would eventually become Local 113, he had found a home.

Bill Johnson rose through the ranks to the position of Business Manager, ultimately responsible for contract negotiation and administration, personnel, and all of the union's other business. He has also served as Union Trustee for 30 years and is a trustee of the Laborers' Employers Cooperation Education Trust.

As a leader, Bill Johnson earned the respect of Local membership. He led by example, with dedication to the welfare and professional advancement of the membership. He always remembered that a successful union draws strength from its members just as they draw strength from the union.

After over 40 years, Bill Johnson is retiring as Business Manager of Laborers Local 113. His retirement from organized labor does not mean an end to his public service. Bill has been a longtime leader at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, and he presides over the church's economic and community development corporations. Under his direction, I know that these organizations will continue to work vigorously to bring housing and economic opportunity to Milwaukee's central city. Bill has also been active in leadership positions in the Milwaukee Jobs Initiative, the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, and Campaign for a Sustainable Milwaukee.

I am proud to join his colleagues, his friends, and his many admirers in expressing my gratitude to Bill Johnson for a lifetime of devoted service to Milwaukee's working families. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Bill and wishing him well as he embarks on a new course.

TRIBUTE TO THE BROOKLYN IRISH-AMERICAN PARADE COMMITTEE

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee on the occasion of its 24th Annual Brooklyn Irish-American Parade.

The Brooklyn Irish-American Parade highlights the cultural, education and historical accomplishments and contributions of Brooklyn's Irish-American community. The Annual Brooklyn Irish-American Parade serves as a celebration of Brooklyn's cultural diversity and richness and takes place in historic Park Slope on the hallowed ground of the Battle of Brooklyn and commemorates the Marylanders, Irish Freedom Fighters and Americans of other ethnic backgrounds who gave their lives to secure independence for all Americans. The Spirit of '76 was, and still is, the ideal of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade.

The Parade Committee, its officers and members, continue the memorialization of "The Great Famine" (An Gorta Mor) which caused the deaths of over 1,500,000 people in Ireland and tens of thousands as they traveled to America. During "The Great Famine", over 1,000,000 of Erin's sons and daughters emigrated to the United States through the port of New York.